

# Holiday Plant Care

## Poinsettias, Fresh Cut Trees & More

Decorating with evergreens and flowering plants is a classic holiday tradition that goes back hundreds of years. Whether your style is classic or modern, Hicks Nurseries has everything you need to continue the tradition and create a welcoming, festive spirit throughout your home.

### Poinsettias

Nothing says Christmas quite like a poinsettia! This holiday plant, native to Central America, is used to adorn homes, businesses and places of worship throughout the holiday season. The star shaped leaves are available in a multitude of sizes in shades of red, pink and white.

### Caring for Poinsettias

1. Poinsettias are tropical plants that can be severely harmed by cold weather. Wrap them carefully in a paper sleeve before transport.
2. When you bring your poinsettia into your home or office, carefully unwrap it and place in a well-lit area away from drafts.
3. Poinsettias prefer daytime room temperatures of no more than 70 degrees and will hold their leaves longer if the temperatures are cooler, preferring night temperatures as low as 55 degrees.
4. Keep your plants away from the heat of television sets, radiators, and heating ducts.
5. Water thoroughly when the soil is almost completely dry; drain off any excess water.

### Fresh Holiday Greens

- There is nothing like the fragrant scent of evergreens. From wreaths, garlands and bunches of fresh cut greens, our selections are made from balsam fir, boxwood, douglas fir, fraser fir, German boxwood, incense cedar, juniper, mountain hemlock, noble fir, port orford cedar, shore pine, white pine and more.

### Caring for Fresh Cut Greens

- 1. When you bring your fresh cut greens home, place them in a protected area such as a garage or shed away from the wind and sun until you are ready to decorate. If possible, immerse them in water for a day or two; remove from water and let them dry in a protected area before use.
- 2. Spray all greens, wreaths, roping and swags with an antidesiccant to prolong their life. This clear, flexible, protective film holds in moisture on stems, needles, and leaves.
- 3. Once in place, mist greens daily with water to prolong their life.

### Safety Tips

- ■ Never hang fresh roping over a fireplace or wood stove.
- ■ When using Christmas lights on fresh cut greens, limit the number of lights and the length of time they are turned on to prolong freshness. LED lights are your best option, as they are cool to the touch.
- ■ Remove and discard old, dried out greens soon after the holiday season ends.





## Fresh Cut Christmas Trees



We have the finest premium Fraser fir, balsam fir and blue fir Christmas trees available, with great needle retention and longer lasting freshness. All live Christmas trees receive a complimentary fresh cut, trim, net-wrapping and loading on to your car.

- **Fraser Fir** Christmas Trees are often the most popular choice. Frasers are known for their excellent needle retention, strong branches, and fragrance.
- **Balsam Fir** Christmas Trees have deep green, soft needles. Known for its strong fragrance and shape, balsam fir trees are considered the classic Christmas tree.
- **Blue Fir** Christmas Trees have a double needle look and a bluish-green color. They have good needle retention and strong fragrance.

### Caring for Live Christmas Trees

#### 1. Once You Arrive Home

Keep your tree in a sheltered, unheated area such as a porch or garage to protect it from wind and sun until you are ready to bring it indoors. It is important to keep the tree trunk immersed in a bucket of water. This keeps the fresh cut open so the tree can absorb water. If you do not keep the tree trunk soaking in water, you will need to make a new cut to the base prior to bringing the tree indoors.

#### 2. Tree Set Up

- Clear space in the room where you plan to display your Christmas tree. Spread a tree removal bag on the floor to protect the floor and/or carpet and to aid with tree removal later. Set up the stand and then add the tree. Tighten the stand bolts and fill the base with water.

#### 3. Water

- To keep your Christmas tree fresh, it is very important to keep the tree stand filled with water. A seal of dried sap will form over the cut stump in four to six hours if the water level drops below the base of the tree. This will prevent the tree from absorbing water. If a seal does form, another fresh cut will need to be made or the tree will begin to wilt and drop its needles.

- A tree will absorb as much as a gallon of water or more in the first 24 hours and one or more quarts each day thereafter. Water is important because it prevents the needles from drying and dropping off and the boughs from drooping. Water also keeps the tree fragrant.

- Add Prolong Tree Preservative to the water to keep the sap running and your tree looking fresher, longer.



100 Jericho Tpke | Westbury | NY 11590

516-334-0066 | [HicksNurseries.com](http://HicksNurseries.com)

